

Thyroid neoplasm

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Thyroid neoplasm or **thyroid cancer** usually refers to any of four kinds of malignant tumors of the thyroid gland: papillary, follicular, medullary or anaplastic. Papillary and follicular tumors are the most common. They grow slowly and may recur, but are generally not fatal in patients under 45 years of age. Medullary tumors have a good prognosis if restricted to the thyroid gland and a poorer prognosis if metastasis occurs. Anaplastic tumors are fast-growing and respond poorly to therapy.

Thyroid nodules are diagnosed by ultrasound guided fine needle aspiration (USG/FNA) or frequently by thyroidectomy (surgical removal and subsequent histological examination). As thyroid cancer can take up iodine, radioactive iodine is commonly used to treat thyroid carcinomas, followed by TSH suppression by high-dose thyroxine therapy.

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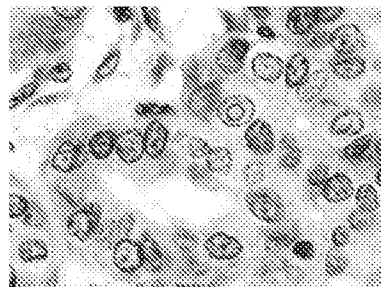
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Symptoms

Most often the first symptom of thyroid cancer is a nodule in the thyroid region of the neck. However, many adults have small nodules in their thyroids. But typically under 5% of these nodules are found to be malignant. Sometimes the first sign is an enlarged lymph node. Later symptoms that can be present are pain in the anterior

Thyroid cancer

Classification and external resources



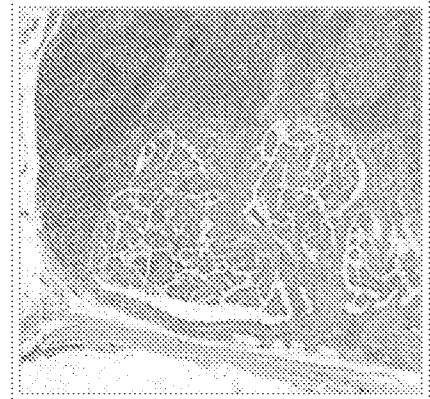
Micrograph (high power view) of papillary thyroid carcinoma demonstrating diagnostic features (nuclear clearing and overlapping nuclei). H&E stain.

ICD-10	C73. (http://www.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10online/?gc73.htm+c73)
ICD-9	193 (http://www.icd9data.com/getICD9Code.aspx?icd9=193)
eMedicine	ent/646 (http://www.emedicine.com/ent/topic646.htm)
MeSH	D013964 (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2009/MB_cgi?field=uid&term=D013964)

region of the neck and changes in voice.

Thyroid cancer is usually found in a euthyroid patient, but symptoms of hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism may be associated with a large or metastatic well-differentiated tumor.

Nodules are of particular concern when they are found in those under the age of 20. The presentation of benign nodules at this age is less likely, and thus the potential for malignancy is far greater.



Micrograph of a lymph node with papillary thyroid carcinoma.